

IN THE SPECIFICATION

No changes in the specification are requested.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the accompanying complete Claims Listing set forth in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), (comprising eight (5) sequentially numbered pages, setting forth each of originally numbered Claims 1-20 in numerically ascending order with the current status of each claim parenthetically identified, as appropriate. Claims 1 through 16 stand withdrawn, and Claims 19 and 20 are deemed withdrawn in response to Applicant's election with traverse of the Group II Species "I".

REMARKS CONCERNING CURRENT AMENDMENTS

In the subject Official Action, the drawings are objected to on the grounds of inclusion [in Figure 2, only] of reference numeral 24 which is asserted to be absent from the specification as filed. Claims 1 through 16 are acknowledged to be withdrawn and Claims 19 and 20 are deemed withdrawn in accordance with Applicant's election with traverse of the arbitrary species designated as "I". Remaining Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as anticipated by the newly cited Smart reference.

By this Amendment, Figure 2 of the informal Drawings has been corrected in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 121(d) to substitute reference numeral "80" for reference numeral "24". Support for this substitution is self evident from the specification and claims as filed, wherein both reference numerals were used, erroneously, to identify the same "hammer element" now identified solely by numeral "80". Use of numeral 24 to identify the hammer element is found in Figure 2 of the drawings as filed, as well as in the last line of now-withdrawn Claim 9, as filed.

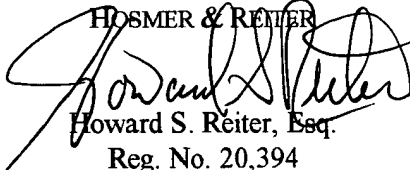
With reference to rejected Claim 17, this claim now has been amended to emphasize a novel and significant distinction from Smart; specifically, Smart discloses a laminated gun stock which forms no part of the movably interconnected operating mechanism of a functional weapon. Applicant respectfully asserts that laminated structures, per se, have been known and used in multiple applications, for many years, in

industry and decoration by way of example only. But the in the art of record and/or known to applicant, there is no disclosure of lamination of the interactive movably coupled elements of a precision-crafted weapon as herein disclosed and now claimed in Amended Claim 17.

In the context set forth in the preceding paragraph, Applicant notes once again that the exact method of securing the laminations of such a structure to each other can assume any of the many forms known including those specifically set forth herein, once the invention herein disclosed is known. That is, Claim 17, in this regard, is, in fact, generic. Accordingly Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's Final Rejection based upon the assignment of different species to different methods of fastening laminations together.

Further timely action on the merits of this application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

HOSMER & REITER

Howard S. Reiter, Esq.
Reg. No. 20,394
Attorney for Applicant

HOSMER & REITER
158 Prospect Hill
New Milford, CT 06776
Tel. No: (860) 355-0869
Fax. No: (860) 354-0869

January 18, 2005

encs:
HSR/es⁵